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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

JOURNAL WANTED

DEAR EDITOR: I should like to purchase a copy of the JOURNAL for April, 1911, if any subscriber has it to spare.

MARY M. FLETCHER,
Charlottesville, Va.

STORK DIAPERS

DEAR EDITOR: I wonder what nurses think of the use of stork diapers for very young babies. Do they do harm or not?

North Dakota. E. E. S.

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED FOR OPERATING-ROOM NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: I have read most of the books advertised for nurses interested in surgical nursing. I find good points and suggestions in each one, but have not found any one of them to contain enough of the practical suggestions that the operating-room nurses need. The idea has come to me that a proper text-book could be arranged from suggestions from various surgical nurses (as I am sure circumstances bring ideas into every nurse's mind), together with material we already have in our reference books, and that such a book would prove to be a benefit to the operating-room nurse as a guide, and to the students as a text-book on the theory and practice of surgical technique. I shall be pleased to hear from other nurses interested. There is no financial gain desired in this undertaking.

SURGICAL NURSE.

PROPER POSITION FOR A PATIENT RECEIVING AN ENEMA

DEAR EDITOR: In reply to "R. N." in the July number asking about the proper position for placing a patient when giving an enema, I cannot give the name or authority of physician or school for the left-side position, but the following may be a help.

In using the low enema, the time-honored position on the left side is certainly correct, as the fluid used in the enema, immediately after leaving the tube, by the natural force of gravity, follows the trend of the colon, via the sigmoid flexure, to the left.

On the other hand, when the high rectal tube is used, this passes so high in the bowel, if properly inserted, that the water will naturally, from the force caused by the elevation of the bag, be impelled to the immediate vicinity of the turn between the descending and transverse colon and will hence be in its course if given on the right side. Whereas, if the above is given with high rectal tube in the left position, the tendency is to force all water or fluid, upon leaving the tube, to make progress against the force of gravity, and with the least obstruction will certainly result in the necessity of a thorough filling of the lower bowel before the passing of fluids through the transverse or ascending colon.